MARVEL

310

CHIP ZDARSKY

# PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

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**Hi! I'm totally new here and not the same voice as last time, avoiding further emotional investment through dissembling! Please explain all the Spider-Lore I'll need to understand and appreciate this issue, starting with AMAZING FANTASY #15, and going up through, say, that issue from last month with the dirt guy.**

Do you mean Sandman--

**Yeah, yeah, the Great Dustbowl. I followed all that, so it's just the other stuff I need a rundown on. Actually, can you do this in the form of a twenty-second video?**

Did you read those last issues all the way through? Now that you mention it, though, I do a mean shadow-puppet show! Look over there!

**Are you for real? I--oh! Oh gosh… It's…it's beautiful! Maybe I didn't fully appreciate that Sandman story--I'm going to call my own fiery-tempered old friend and then read issues #308 and #309 again!**

As should we all! But read this one first! You don't need to know any of that stuff for this one. Listen: Some years ago, Peter Parker got super-powers by accident, and he used those to become the guy you know as SPIDER-MAN!

## FINALE


WRITER, ARTIST & VARIANT ARTIST
**CHIP ZDARSKY**

LETTERER
**VC's TRAVIS LANHAM**

COVER ARTISTS
**MIKE McKONE & DEAN WHITE**

ASSISTANT EDITOR
**KATHLEEN WISNESKI**

EDITOR
**NICK LOWE**

EDITOR IN CHIEF
**C.B. CEBULSKI**

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
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SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO



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WHAT? WHAT DO I THINK OF *SPIDER-MAN?*

I DON'T KNOW. HE'S A WEIRDO?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING? WHAT'S THIS FOR?

I HEARD HE WAS, LIKE, A *TEENAGER* WHEN HE STARTED? IS THAT TRUE?

I *GET* A KID WEARING THAT COSTUME, BUT ISN'T HE--ISN'T HE *TOO OLD* FOR IT NOW?

*SPIDER-MAN?* THAT GUY'S *THE BEST! LITERALLY LIFTED* MY CAR TO THE SHOP WHEN IT BROKE DOWN ON 6TH! AND I'M USING "*LITERALLY*" THE *RIGHT* WAY, YEAH?

I TRIED TO PAY HIM! BUT HE ONLY TOOK CHANGE FOR THE SUBWAY 'CAUSE HIS "ARMS WERE TIRED" AND HE DIDN'T HAVE POCKETS!

--HIT A-A-A *VAMPIRE* OR SOMETHING WITH *MY CAR* AND THEN RAN AWAY!

SO, WHAT DO I *THINK* OF *SPIDER-MAN?* I THINK I'LL SEE HIM IN #$#% *COURT* IF I EVER COME ACROSS HIM AGAIN! MY *DAD'S A LAWYER* AND HE SAYS--

--I'M SORRY? SPIDER-MAN?

I-- HE'S--

SPIDER-MAN IS AMAZING.

ALL RIGHT, ONE MORE GO-AROUND AND THEN HOME TO *BED!* I'M *EXHAUSTED!*

WHY DOES ALL THE *CRIME* HAPPEN AT *NIGHT?* YOU'D THINK THE *FLEXIBILITY* OF BEING A CRIMINAL WOULD MEAN YOU'D GET TO *AVOID* THE NIGHT SHIFTS!

IS IT 'CAUSE THEY CAN MORE FREELY *TALK* TO THEMSELVES WITHOUT PEOPLE AROUND TO JUDGE THEM?

THAT'S GOTTA BE--

***POLICE! FREEZE!***

FINALLY! SOME PEOPLE TO *TALK TO!* PROBABLY *SUPER* FRIENDLY TOO!

W-WE GOTTA *SPLIT UP!* MEET BACK AT THE *HOUSE!*

NO WAY! THEY'LL JUST CHASE *ME!* I'M THE GUY WITH THE *GUN!*

open 24/7 for devouring

SO I MAY AS WELL--

THWIP

--USE IT?

A GUN?! YOU BROUGHT A *GUN* TO A CLASSIC COPS 'N' ROBBERS 'N' SPIDEY CHASE?

NF!

LIKE, *MINIMUM,* THAT'S AN ADDITIONAL *TEN YEARS* IN PRISON! HONESTLY?

TOK

WAKANDONUT
HOME OF THE PANTHER CLAW

THIS WAS A *BAD IDEA.*

YOU GUYS CUFF MR. GUN-REGRET AND MR. NOT-QUITE-AS-BAD AND I'LL ROUND UP MR. MYSTERY, 'KAY?

I-- WAIT! YOU CAN'T--

TRUST ME, JUST LET HIM DO IT. THE SOONER HE CATCHES THE GUY, THE SOONER WE DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM.

SORRY, PAL. UNLESS YOU HAVE THE WALL-CRAWLING ABILITIES OF A *SPIDER--*

--WHICH ISN'T *IMPOSSIBLE.* THERE ARE A *LOT* OF US FOR SOME REASON--

--YOU'RE BEST OFF JUST COMING--

--QUIETLY...

I--I DIDN'T-- THEY--

--THEY ASKED ME T-T-TO--

--JUST BE L-LOOKOUT, I--I--

--P-PLEASE-- I WON'T EVER-- I WON'T--

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THESE GUYS DOWN TO THE *STATION*, SO--

--WHAT-- WHERE'D HE--

BEATS ME! GUY PROBABLY HAS *SUPER-POWERS* OR SOMETHING.

I'M TELLIN' YOU--

--THERE OUGHT TO BE *LAWS* AGAINST THAT KIND OF THING!

...SPIDER-MAN THOUGHT...HE THOUGHT THE SCARE WAS ENOUGH. THAT HE DIDN'T NEED A *RECORD* TO HOUND HIM FOR YEARS, THREATENING HIS FUTURE...

KYLE GOT FIFTY BUCKS FROM TWO GUYS TO BE A *LOOKOUT* WHILE THEY ROBBED A STORE...

SPIDER-MAN BROUGHT HIM BACK HOME TO ME.

I'LL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO HIM FOR THAT.

SPIDER-MAN? GUY'S A *FREAK.* BUT HEY, WHO AM I TO JUDGE? ON THE WEEKENDS I--

--I SAW SPIDEY ONCE! HE WAS FIGHTIN' A MAN WITH *LONG LEGS* AND SPIDEY JUMPED *REALLY* FAR AND HE WAS *SO COOL* AND--

--IT WAS DAREDEVIL--

--AND HE THREW A *SPIDER-STICK* AT HIM AND-AND-AND--

HE SEEMS LIKE A *GOOD* BOY. HELPED ME HOME WITH MY GROCERIES WHEN MY BAG BROKE. USED HIS *WEBS* TO MAKE NEW BAGS...

...BUT I HAD TO WAIT TOO LONG FOR HIS WEBBING TO DISAPPEAR AND MY ICE CREAM MELTED...

ALSO, HIS WEBBING LEAVES A WEIRD ODOR? IT WASN'T VERY PLEASANT...

*SPIDER-MAN?* YEAH, I GOT SOME THOUGHTS ON SPIDER-MAN. SEE THE GUY ALMOST EVERY DAY!

--KETCHUP IS THE *BASE LAYER.* IT *HAS* TO BE. IT'S HOT DOG ICING!

CAN YOU CALL A CAKE A *CAKE* WITHOUT ICING? NO. AND CAN YOU CALL A HOT DOG A *HOT DOG* WITHOUT KETCHUP? I SAY *NO.*

UNLESS YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO TOMATOES OR SOMETHING. I DON'T WANT TO DIMINISH THE HOT DOG EXPERIENCE OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T PHYSICALLY ENJOY THEM AS GOD INTENDED.

I MEAN, LIKE, I WOULDN'T CALL A *VEGGIE* DOG ANYTHING OTHER THAN A HOT DOG, Y'KNOW? BUT IT WOULD STILL HAVE TO HAVE KETCHUP.

HEY, CARL, DO YOU COOK THOSE ONES ON A SEPARATE *PART* OF THE GRILL? I GUESS YOU HAVE TO, *EH?*

NEVER TRIED ONE OF THOSE... MAYBE THAT'LL BE *TOMORROW'S* DOG?

I--HE SAVED ME! AND DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT WAS *MY CHOICE* TO OFFER HIM *FREE HOT DOGS* FOR LIFE!

BUT... BUT *EVERY* DAY WITH THIS?!

HE'S FINE, I GUESS. SEEMS DESPERATE.

I DON'T LIKE HIM.

MASKED MEN SPYING ON CITIZENS FROM THE SKIES? JUST WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING WRONG?

IT'S NOT THE KIND OF WORLD I WANT TO LIVE IN.

BEAUTIFULLY SELFLESS. HOW MANY OF US WOULD USE THEIR POWERS TO GET RICH? HE COULD DO ALMOST *ANYTHING* FOR MONEY WITH THOSE ABILITIES, BUT HE DOESN'T. HE HELPS PEOPLE.

I'M SORRY? HOW DO I *KNOW* HE DOESN'T MAKE MONEY?

KYLE CHANGED AFTER MEETING *SPIDER-MAN.* HE USED TO BE PRETTY ANGRY. HIS DAD WAS...WELL, HIS DAD WAS IN PRISON. SO IT WASN'T THE *EASIEST* AT HOME.

BUT AFTER SPIDER-MAN... HE WAS BETTER... KINDER. WAS EVEN GETTING BETTER *GRADES.*

AND YEAH, I *DO* THINK HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT...

I SEE HIM ALMOST EVERY DAY EATING FREE HOT DOGS.

KYLE! DINNER'S READY!

KYLE!

--SO WHICH ONE IS "R"?

WELL, SEE, THERE ARE *TWO* "R"s...

...THE RADIUS OF THE SMALL CIRCLE AND THE RADIUS OF THE *LARGE* CIRCLE. A CAPITAL "R" AND A LOWER-CASE "r"...

SO, WE UUUSE...

...PYTHAGORAM THEORY?

*PYTHAGOREAN*, BUT SURE. WHICH MEAAAANS...

*UM*...

...$r^2+x^2=$... CAPITAL $R^2$?

SEE, BUD? I *TOLD* YOU IT WAS EASY...

HE ACTS LIKE EVERYTHING IS SO *EASY*. SURE, KNOCK OUT SOME *MUGGER* AND LEAVE A *NOTE*. IT'S GUYS LIKE *ME* WHO HAVE TO DO THE *PAPERWORK* AND TESTIFY IN *COURT*.

SPIDER-MAN'S A *JOKE*.

SPIDER-MAN'S A *HERO*. I UNDERSTAND A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE PUT OFF BY HIS MASK, AND HIS... COMEDIC SENSIBILITIES... BUT IN *MY* OPINION?

HE'S ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN I'VE EVER KNOWN.

SPIDER-MAN IS BAD.

SPIDER-MAN HELPED MY SON. HE'S A GOOD MAN. I'LL ALWAYS FEEL INDEBTED TO...

...HE DIDN'T KNOW...

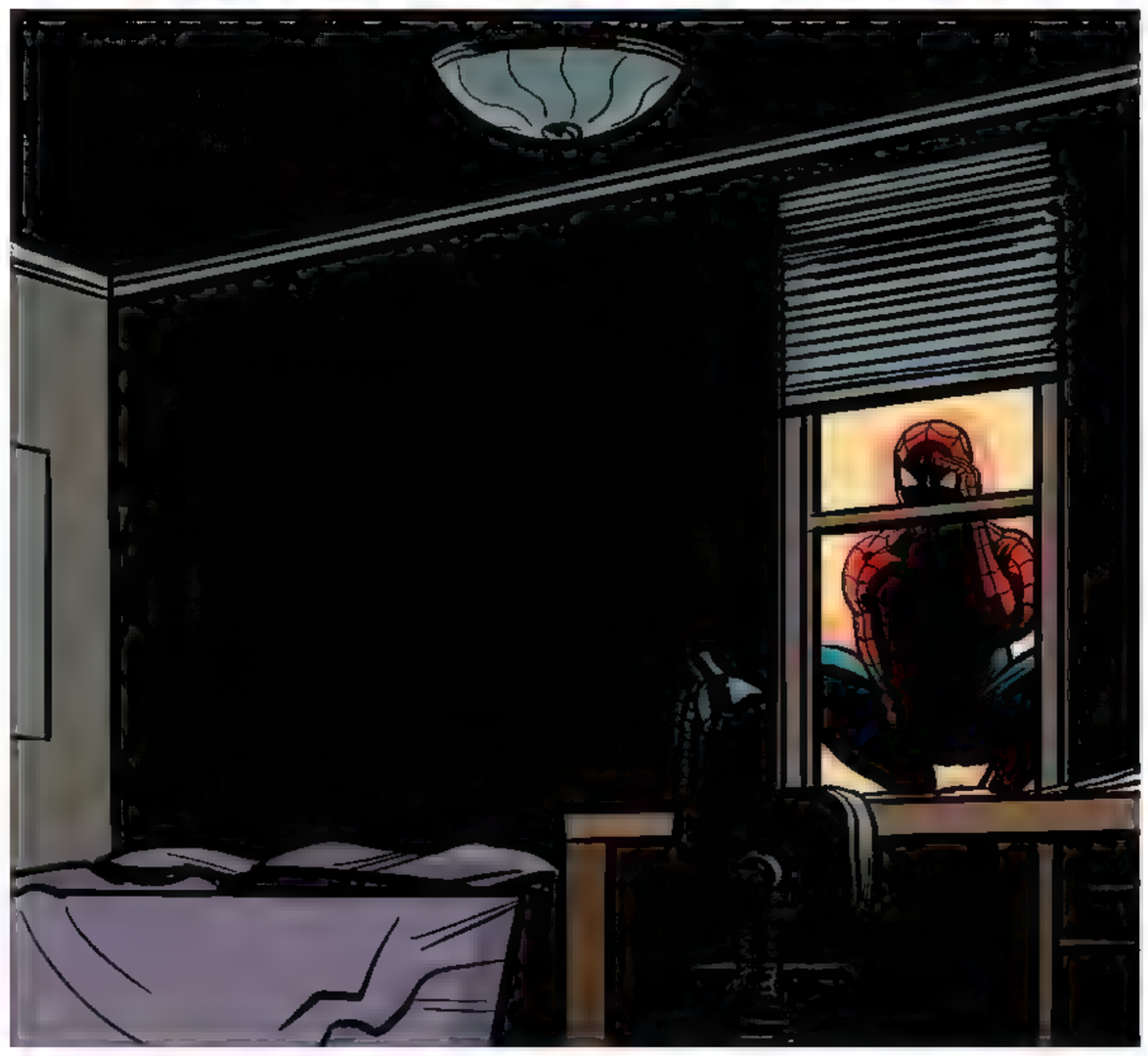
...HE...

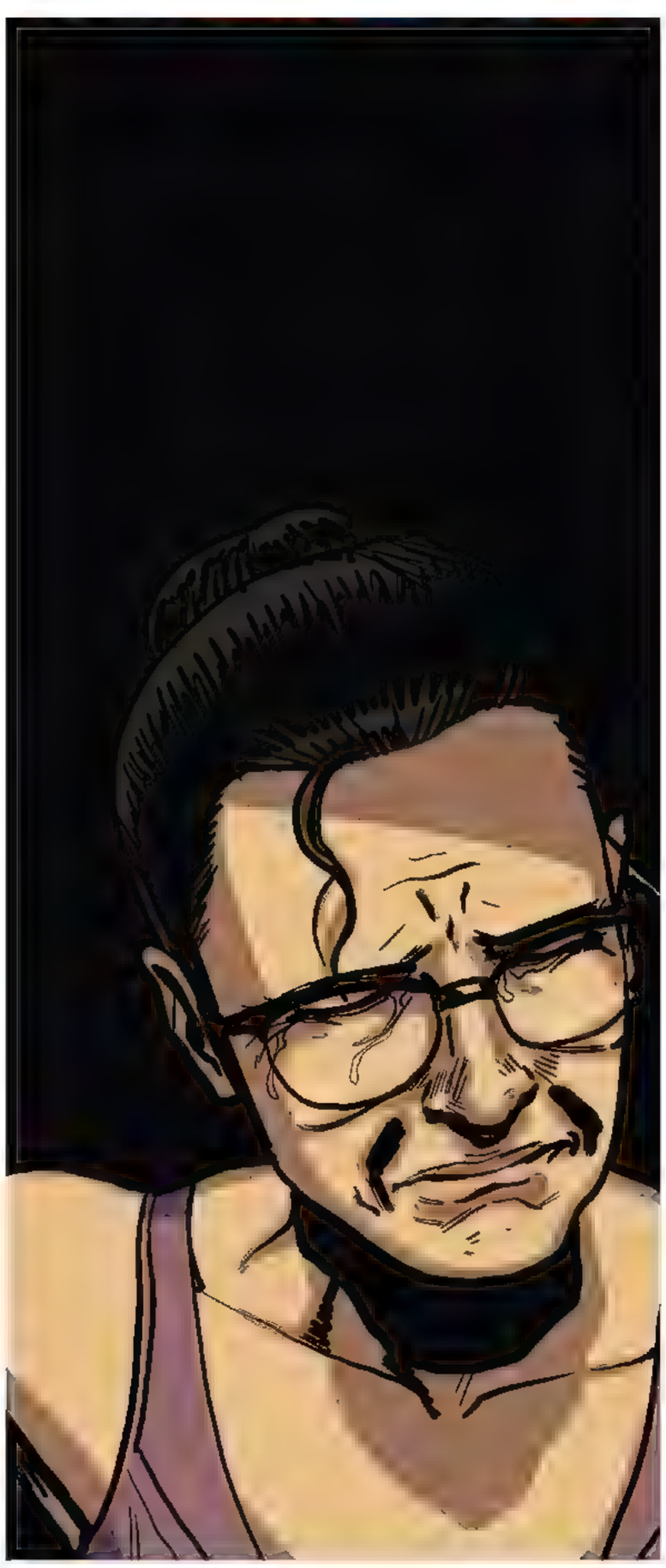
THE GUYS WHO--THE GUYS WHO KYLE WORKED FOR, THEY GOT OUT ON BAIL...THEY...

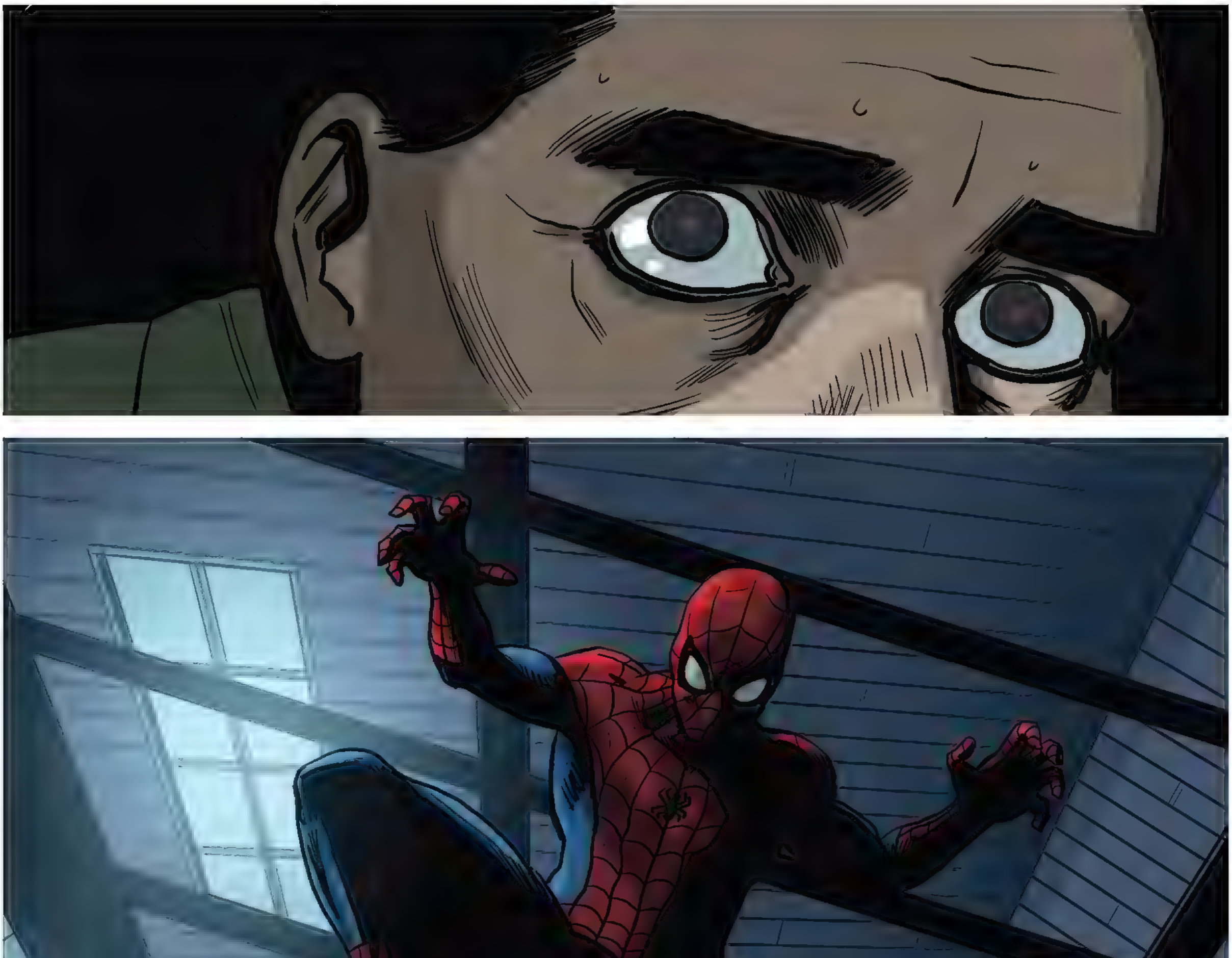
...THEY THOUGHT THE COPS SHOWING UP WAS *HIS* FAULT...

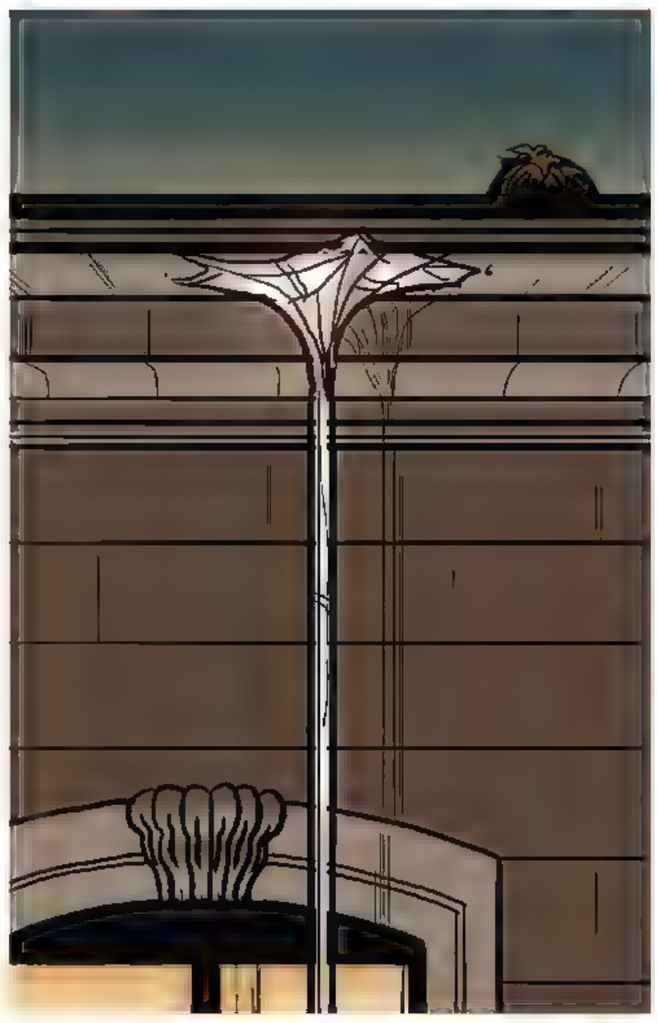
...THEY...

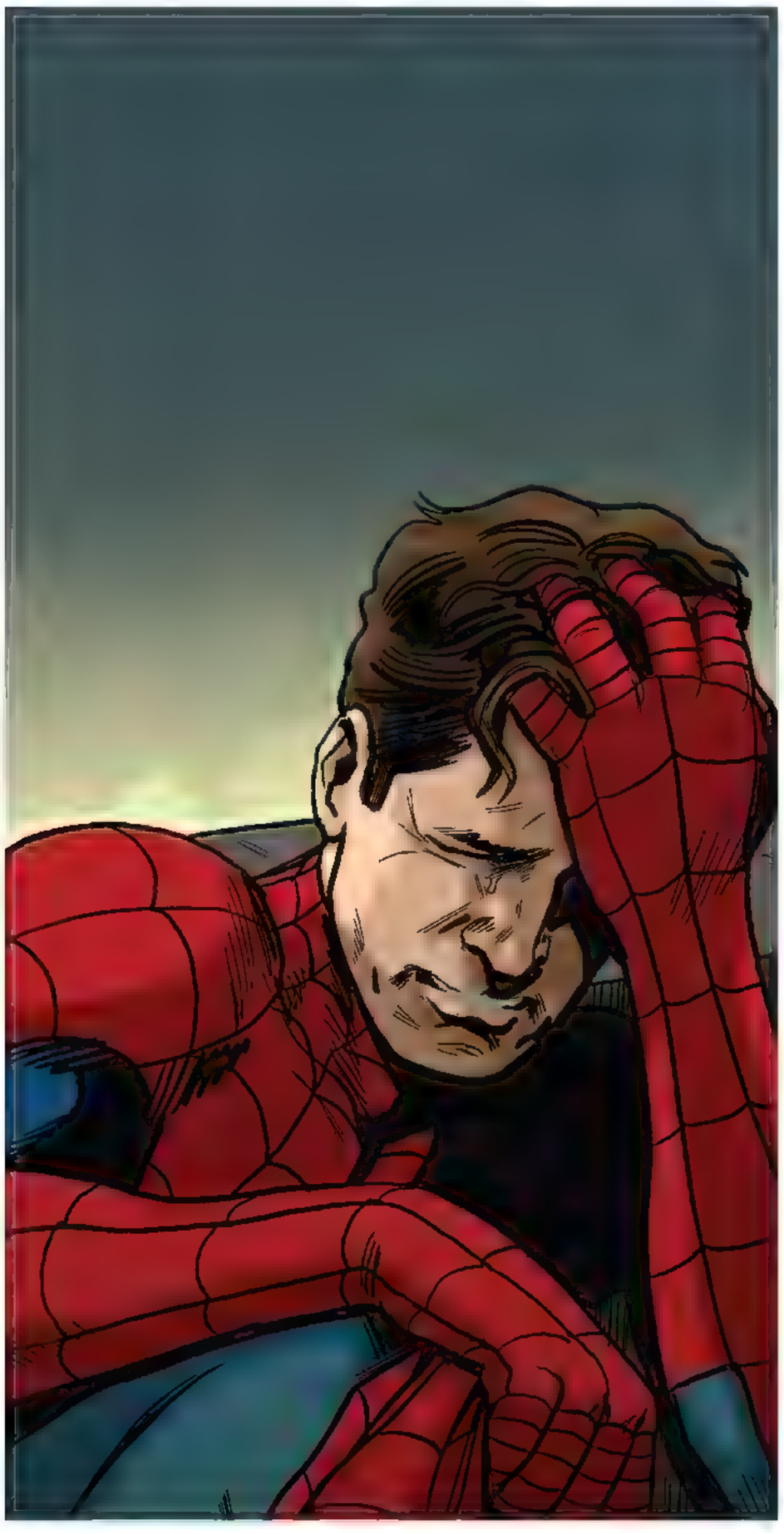
...THEY...











WE LOOK UP ABOVE AT THE GUY-- THE GUY SWINGING ON THREADS--AND IT'S HARD TO...THINK OF HIM AS A *PERSON.*

BUT HE IS.

I'VE *SEEN* SPIDER-MAN. I *KNOW* SPIDER-MAN. HE'S JUST...JUST A GUY WHO WANTS TO HELP.

HE HELPED US. HE REALLY DID. BUT MY BOY... MY KYLE... HE'S G--

*SPIDER-MAN* SAVES PEOPLE. HE DOES HIS BEST, EXPECTS NOTHING BACK...

I THINK...

...I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE MORE LIKE SPIDER-MAN.

COLIN... COME ON!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF THE SUITE *HALF AN HOUR AGO!* MY PROJECT'S DUE *TOMORROW,* I NEED--

SORRY, SORRY! JUST LET ME SAVE IT...

ARE YOU ALMOST DONE...WHAT'S IT CALLED AGAIN?

NO TITLE YET. AND... NO. IT'S STILL... IT'S GOT TO BE *PERFECT,* Y'KNOW?

"PERFECT IS THE ENEMY OF *DONE.*"

YEAH, YEAH. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

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HEY.

YOU, UH.

I HEARD--

--WORD ON THE, UH, STREET IS...

...YOU'RE MAKING--

--A DOCUMENTARY?

ON ME?

I...

...YEAH? I MEAN, IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF INTERVIEWS RIGHT *NOW*. I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A THROUGHLINE, BUT--

SURE. I'M MAKING A DOCUMENTARY. I'VE BEEN IN FILM SCHOOL FOR *WAY* TOO LONG, AND I WANTED TO GO OUT WITH SOMETHING BIG...

I--OKAY. THAT'S COOL. I JUST WONDERED...*WHY*... I MEAN, THERE ARE A LOT OF SUPER HEROES KICKING AROUND NEW YORK.

SO, UH...WHY ME?

DID I...SAVE YOUR LIFE OR SOMETHING? I TEND TO *DO* THAT...

NOT *EXACTLY*.

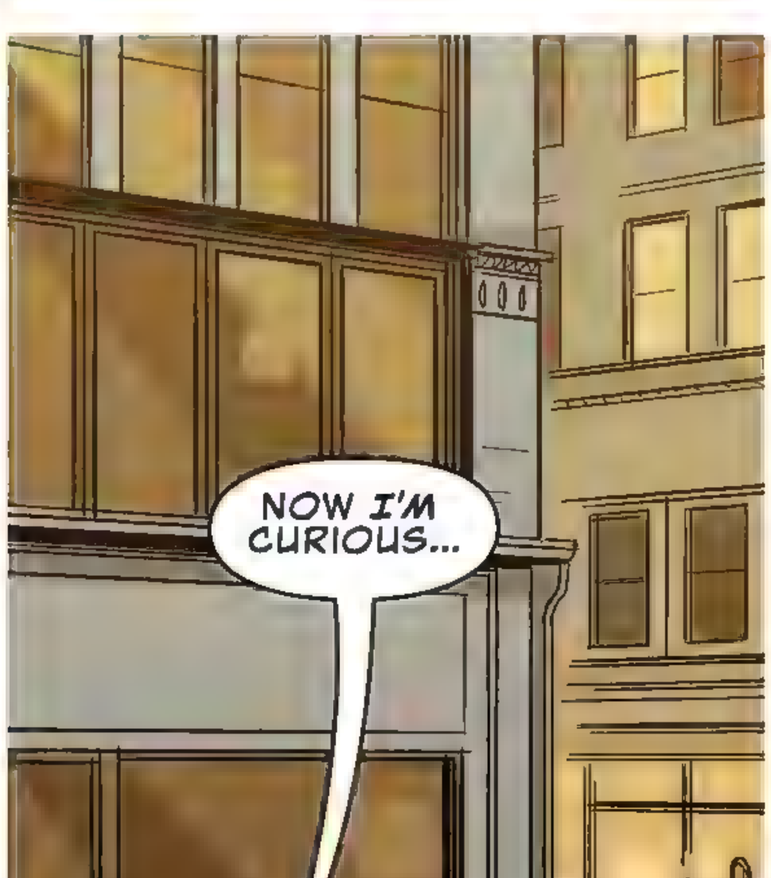
I WAS ON MY WAY TO MY FIRST, LIKE, *REAL* DATE. SUPER NERVOUS. AND JUST LIKE THAT--

--I WAS LITERAL WALKING GARBAGE.

IT WAS SO WEIRD. YOU WERE CLEARLY ANOTHER KID LIKE ME, THOUGH ONE WITH BAD TASTE. AND GIVING ME YOUR CLOTHES LIKE THAT JUST MADE ME REALIZE--
--YOU WERE A REAL PERSON. JUST SOME GUY.
THAT STUCK WITH ME. SO I JUST WANTED TO FIND OUT WHAT EVERYONE ELSE THOUGHT OF YOU. AND NOW, HERE WE ARE.

OH MAN, I REMEMBER THAT! HOW'D... HOW'D THE DATE GO?
I WAS FIFTEEN. HOW DO YOU THINK IT WENT?

HA! FAIR.
WELL, MY CURIOSITY IS HELLA SATISFIED. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THIS WASN'T GOING TO BE "SPIDER-MAN: THE MAKING OF A MENACE" ON NETFLIX OR WHATEVER.
SEE YA 'ROUND, PAL--
WAIT--


NOW I'M CURIOUS...

...HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND OUT ABOUT MY DOC?

I'M-- SORRY? WHAT DO I THINK... OF *SPIDER-MAN?*

UH...

I...FEEL LIKE I HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

I ACTUALLY USED TO TAKE *PICTURES* OF HIM FOR A NEWSPAPER. HE KIND OF HELPED ME PAY MY RENT FOR YEARS.

GOT TO EVENTUALLY REPAY HIM BY HIRING HIM TO BE MY...WELL, MY *BODYGUARD.* BUT STILL.

...I THINK SPIDER-MAN IS...HE'S A GOOD GUY. MOSTLY.

HE TRIES TO DO THE RIGHT THING, AND--YOU KNOW-- HOPEFULLY PEOPLE *SEE* THAT.

BUT HE'S ALSO-- HE'S *HUMAN.* HE MAKES MISTAKES.

HE...HE CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE.

SO, WHEN I THINK OF SPIDER-MAN, I GUESS I--

I THINK OF THE *WEIGHT* OF THAT. THAT HE KEEPS GOING, DESPITE THE FAILURES, KNOWING--HOPING-- ULTIMATELY, THAT HE'S HELPING PEOPLE.

HE'S BEEN DOING THIS FOR A LONG TIME, BUT STILL...WHEN I THINK OF SPIDER-MAN? I THINK, NO MATTER WHAT...

...HE'S NEVER GOING TO STOP TRYING.

# PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

I love Spider-Man.

I mean, I hope that's obvious. Sometimes as a writer you have to beat up your main character, put them through hell and back, but it's all in service of the story, right? It's because you love Spider-Man and you know that what makes him "Spider-Man" is adversity. It's throwing everything at him and having Spidey come through the other side a little worse for wear but still fighting. Still caring.

Trying to live up to the history of the character and the amazing writers who've come before is the only real adversity you have as a Spider-Man writer. It's a tall shadow ready to suffocate you like a symbiote if you pay too much attention to it.

So I did my best. I tried to tap into the things I love about the character and his stories, learned from the great writers who worked on them, while also putting my own stamp on it. Maybe I succeeded, maybe I didn't. Everyone has their own idea of what Spider-Man should be, and hopefully my version clicked with the one you carried around in your head. They say you should write for yourself, and I did. But I'd be lying if I said I didn't want you to enjoy it as well.

Our book started off with a bang thanks to the unbelievable Adam Kubert, a legend who can spin lifeless words into ingenious kineticism, fresher than any movie or TV adaptation. He was joined later by Juan Frigeri, the kind of fresh new talent that you dream of getting on your book. As our main artists, these guys made SPECTACULAR one of the best-looking books on the shelves, and I'll always be grateful for that.

And our guest artists! Can you believe who we got? Joe Quinones! Mike Allred! Michael Walsh! Chris Bachalo! Goran Parlov! Such a wonderful array of styles from artists at the top of their game, inked by some of the best in the business: Joe Rivera, Paolo Rivera, Tim Townsend, Al Vey, Wayne Faucher, Livesay, and Victor Olazaba. And our color artists Jordie Bellaire, Jason Keith, Jordan Gibson, Ian Herring, Laura Allred, Andrew Crossley, Giada Marchisio, and Nathan Fairbairn perfectly complemented them while our letterer Travis Lanham brought the words to life on the page. How did we end up with such talent on this book?

Well, that's where our editor Nick Lowe and his assistant editors Allison Stock, Devin Lewis, Thomas Groneman, and Kathleen Wisneski came in. Keeping this ship running on time while keeping the standards as high as possible is a monumental task, and this team managed it every month, sometimes twice in a month! I wish I could convey properly to you how much work goes into these issues, especially from our editors who work tirelessly to put together the best products possible and get them out the door. Just to show how good they are, I've inserted seven mistakes into this statement. I bet they're all gone by the time this goes to press.

Also, I have to thank the other Spider-Writers. Dan Slott was incredibly gracious to the new guy coming in, and gave me the thrill of a lifetime when he incorporated the J. Jonah Jameson status change into his big, final story. One of the best parts about working for Marvel is seeing your work picked up by other creators, and having Dan, one of the greatest Marvel writers of all time, do that was mind-blowing.

One of the things that made the decision to leave so hard was knowing Nick Spencer was going to be on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Hearing his plans over late-night phone calls made me excited as a reader, but sad as a departing Spidey writer, not getting to play with him on the upcoming storylines. I'm actually jealous of the readers, getting to experience his stories fresh in the issues as they come out. You're in for an amazing ride.

Last, but not least, thanks to you for reading. In a world inundated with movies and TV shows featuring our larger-than-life characters, it's refreshing to open up a comic and see the fruits of a handful of people blowing your mind with the world's longest continued narrative, and the best artists in any medium.

I love Spider-Man, you love Spider-Man and the next writer will absolutely love Spider-Man. Remember that love, and let them tell you a story about your favourite* character.

You're in good hands.

Chip

*Canadian "U" left uncorrected as our thanks to you, Chip! Faithful readers, if you're not already picking up MARVEL 2-IN-ONE by Mr. Zdarsky and Ramón Pérez, you're not just dummies, you're dummies with an excellent new comic to read next month. Peter Parker's AMAZING exploits continue twice a month in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, but his SPECTACULAR adventures also continue next month, as Sean Ryan and the above-mentioned Juan Frigeri throw him into SPIDER-GEDDON! Don't miss it!

See you then!
Kathleen

MARVEL LEGACY

DON'T MISS

# PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #311

LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING! Send e-mails to **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (please mark **"OKAY TO PRINT"**).

ZONE